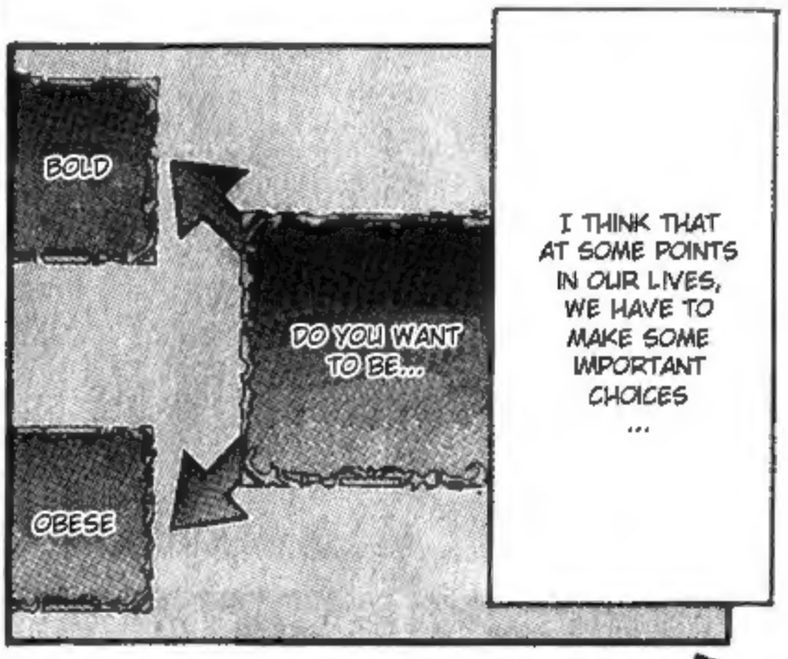
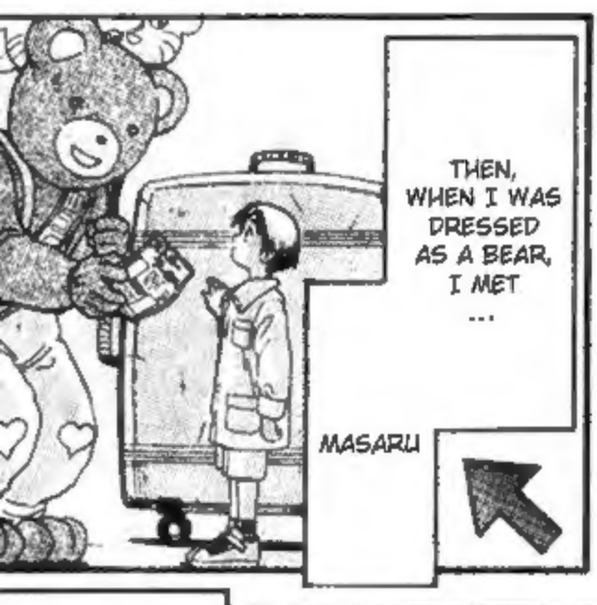
# ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 02
# "SHIROGANE"



HE'S THE ONLY SON OF THE EX-PRESIDENT OF A BIG ENTERPRISE. HE WAS WANDERING AROUND WITH A BIG SUITCASE WHILE BEING CHASED BY WEIRD GUYS

THE GUYS WHO WERE CHASING MASARU WERE JUST A BAND ...
...OF PUPPETS!
EVEN AFTER SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT!
... JUST PUPPETS, WHO ARE AFRAID OF NEITHER PAIN NOR DEATH!
I FOUGHT WITH ONE OF THEM
I LIVED IN CHINA FOR A LONG TIME ...
... WHERE I LEARNED MARTIAL ARTS
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PUPPET?
A LONG TIME AGO, HIS GRANDFATHER TOLD HIM THAT ...
... IF SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED, HE'D HAVE TO RUN AWAY CARRYING A BIG SUITCASE WITH HIM, AND...
HE TOLD ME THAT ...
... "SHIROGANE" WILL TAKE CARE OF ME
AND I FINALLY SAW ...
SHIROGANE

ACT 1 : MASARU - CHAPTER 02
"SHIROGANE"

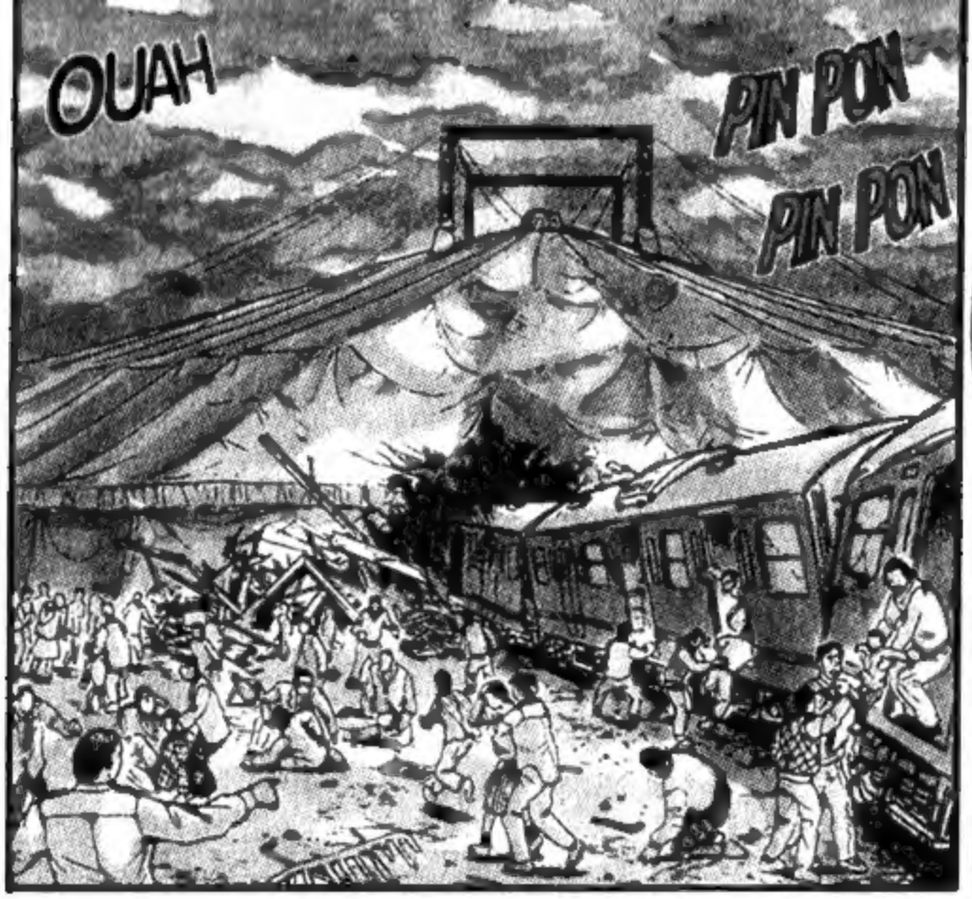
BOOM

ZAW
ZAW

UHHH

KKLA

ERR...
... ARE YOU "SHIROGANE" ?!!
TAH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
... MISTER MASARU ?
I CAN SEE YOU AGAIN AT LEAST!!
WHAT? ERR ...
YES, THANK YOU ...
... WHAT A JOY !


OUAH
PIN PON
PIN PON

AHH!
...
I'M SO SORRY!
YOU'RE... CHOKING ME...

...
THAT YOUR GRANDFATHER CALLED IT "ARLEQUIN"
I REMEMBER ...

YES!
YOUR PUPPET IS REALLY BIG!

...
WHEN YOU WERE LIVING IN FRANCE
I'M THE DAUGHTER OF YOUR NURSE
...
THE NURSE YOUR GRANDFATHER ENGAGED
...

...MY GRANDFATHER ?!

AND NOW YOU'RE ELEVEN
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO ... YOU WERE A VERY YOUNG BOY ... OF ONLY A FEW YEARS
BUT... I NEVER LIVED IN FRANCE
MY MOTHER BECAME YOUR NURSE ... AND HER SALARY WAS REALLY HIGH ...
THEN WE WERE ABLE TO LIVE DECENTLY, WITHOUT EVER STARVING
AT THAT TIME, HE HELPED MY FAMILY A LOT
... WE WERE REALLY POOR ...
THE YEAR BEFORE YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN ...
... YOU LIVED IN YOUR GRANDFATHER'S FRENCH MANOR
I REMEMBER SOMEONE TELLING ME MY GRANDFATHER LIVED IN FRANCE A LONG TIME AGO
!
... owww ...
SAH

KARAKURI
CIRCUS

WAIT !
NARUMI! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
AH
... THOSE GUYS?
SO... WHAT WERE ...
M?!
KRAH

I DELIVER LEAFLETS FOR THIS CIRCUS !!
WHY DOES SHE THINK I'M HER ENEMY?! IT'S SILLY !!
...
SHE LOOKS LIKE A STRANGER, AND HER EYES ARE BRILLIANT LIKE SILVER!
THIS GIRL ...
WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT?! ... I'M "WEIRD" ?!
MASARU, DON'T YOU THINK THIS GIRL IS WEIRD?
BUT YOU, WHO ARE YOU?

...I'VE LEARNT HOW TO MANIPULATE THIS BIG PUPPET THANKS TO MASARU'S GRANDFATHER!
AND WHAT'S THIS BIG PUPPET?! IT'S AUTOMATONS LIKE THIS THAT WANTED TO KIDNAP MASARU!!

I TRAINED HARD FOR SEVERAL YEARS
.
.
TO LEARN HOW TO MANIPULATE ARLEQUIN PROPERLY!
CLIC
HE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIS GRANDSON!
I MUST DO ANYTHING I CAN IF MASARU IS IN DANGER
. .
I... I WAS ...
HE WAS ALONE, LOST IN THIS TOWN !
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN MASARU WAS ASKING FOR HELP?
...
WHEN HE WAS RUNNING AWAY CARRYING HIS SUITCASE!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS GOING TO SHUT UP!
AH
AAH, THAT'S ENOUGH! SHUT UP!
AHH
AH

GWA

SCHRAC
I BEG OF YOU, STOP, BOTH OF YOU !!

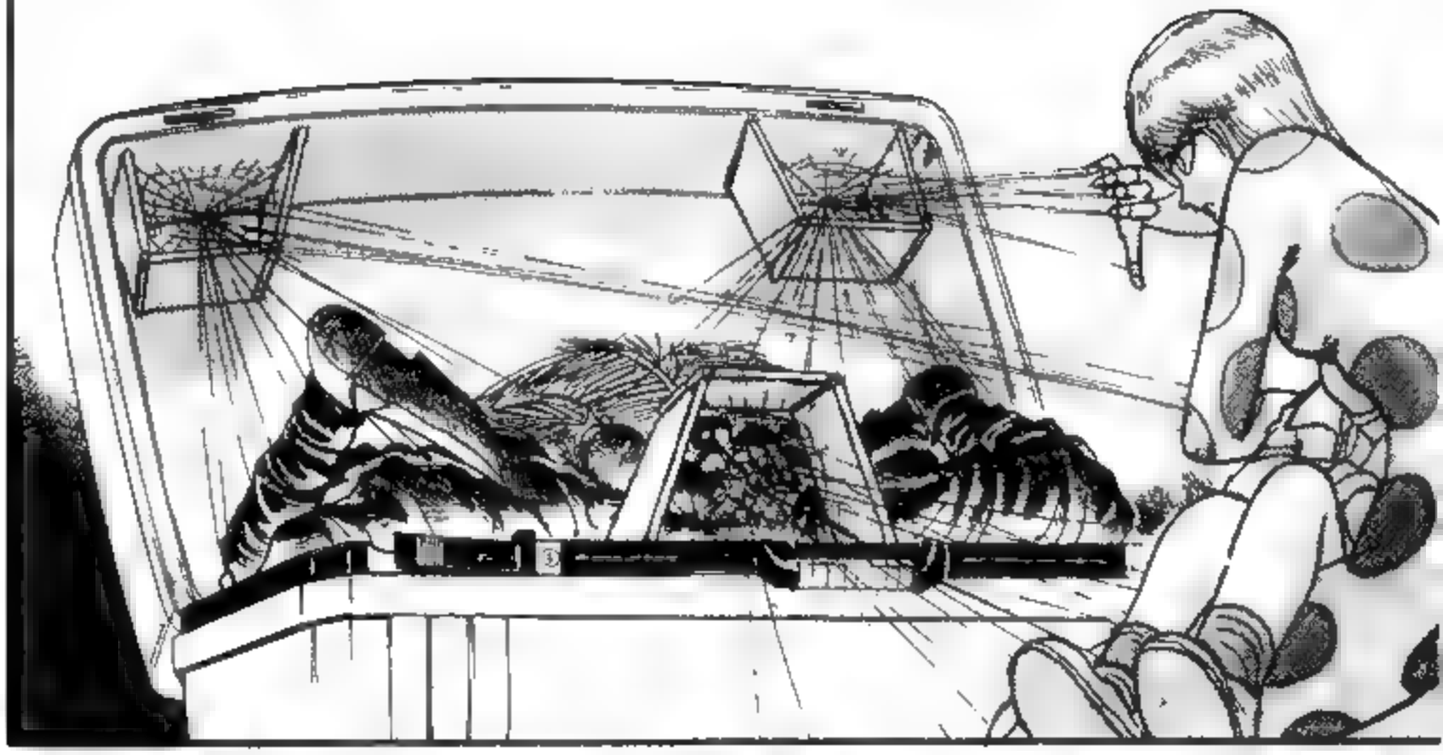
MISTER MASARU!

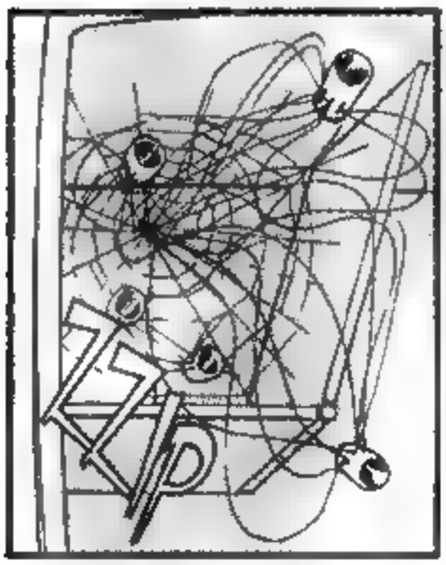
I'M SO SORRY!
FORGIVE ME...
MISTER! MISTER! ANSWER ME!

PL.. PLEASE

MASARU, YOU IDIOT! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOU MUST NOT INTERVENE IN A FIGHT ?!!
...
I DIDN'T STOP IN TIME!
PAF
AAHH ...
ME NEITHER, I COULDN'T STOP ARLEQUIN ...
SHE SEEMS TO REALLY LIKE MASARU
MISTER MASARU ...
FORGIVE ME...
LET ME GO FIND SOME HELP. THE PARAMEDICS SHOULD BE HERE ALREADY ...

IT'S DANGEROUS HERE..
I'LL BRING MASARU TO A SAFE PLACE
EH! BLA BLA
OVER THERE
MASARU'S LIFE IS IN DANGER. ONE WANTED TO KILL HIM
YOU HAVE TO ASK TO THE POLICE FOR HELP
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE COPS WHO ARE OUTSIDE ?
CLAC
SPLAC
VOM




ZIP

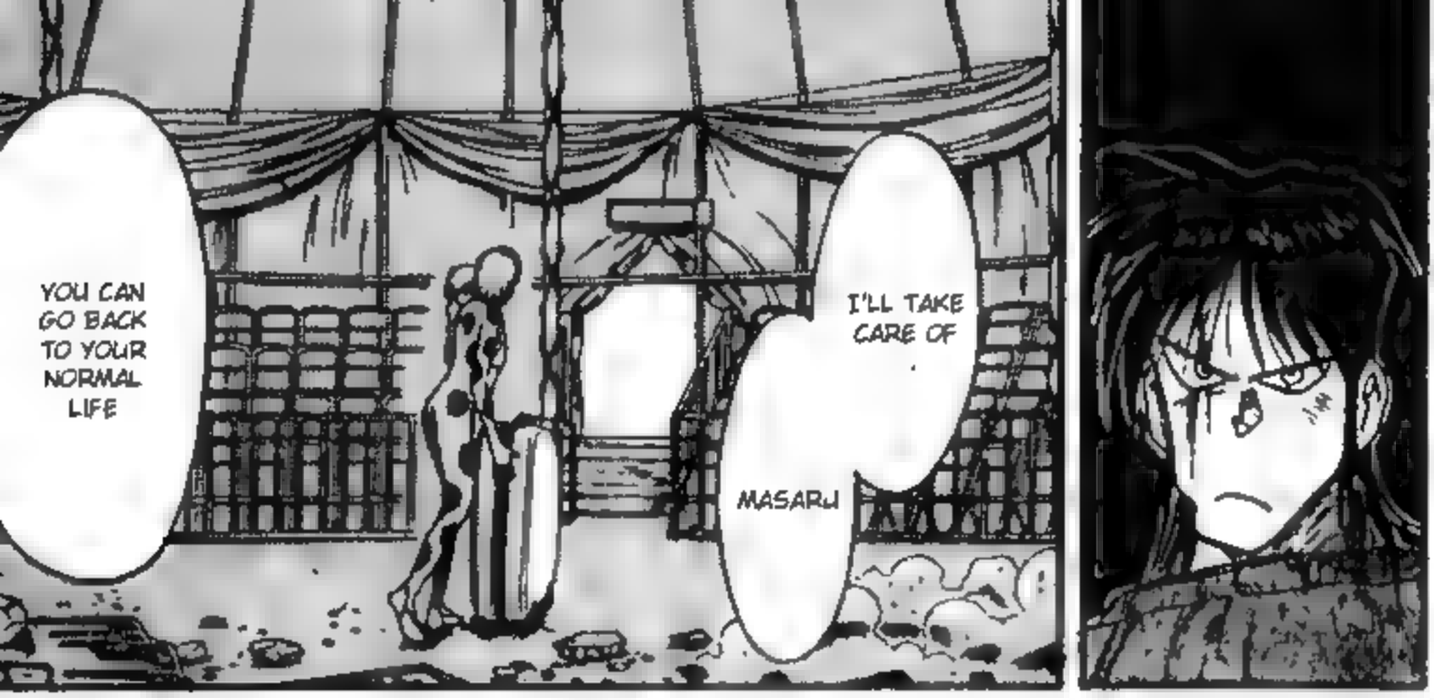
SSAH

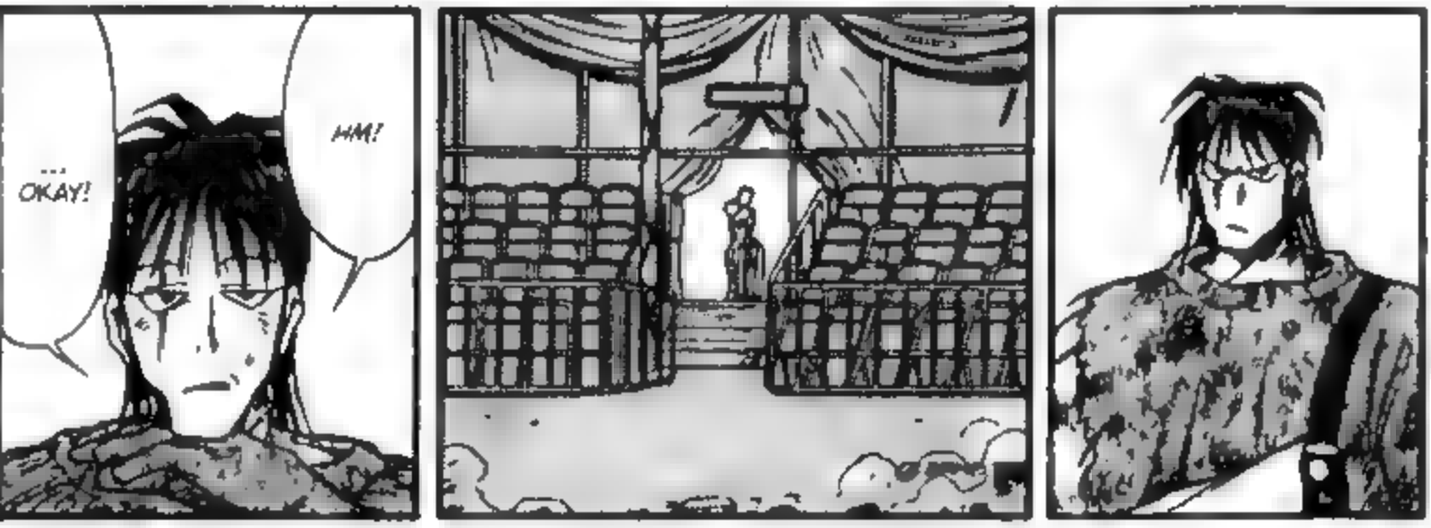
THAT BIG PUPPET CAN FIT IN THIS SUITCASE SO EASILY!

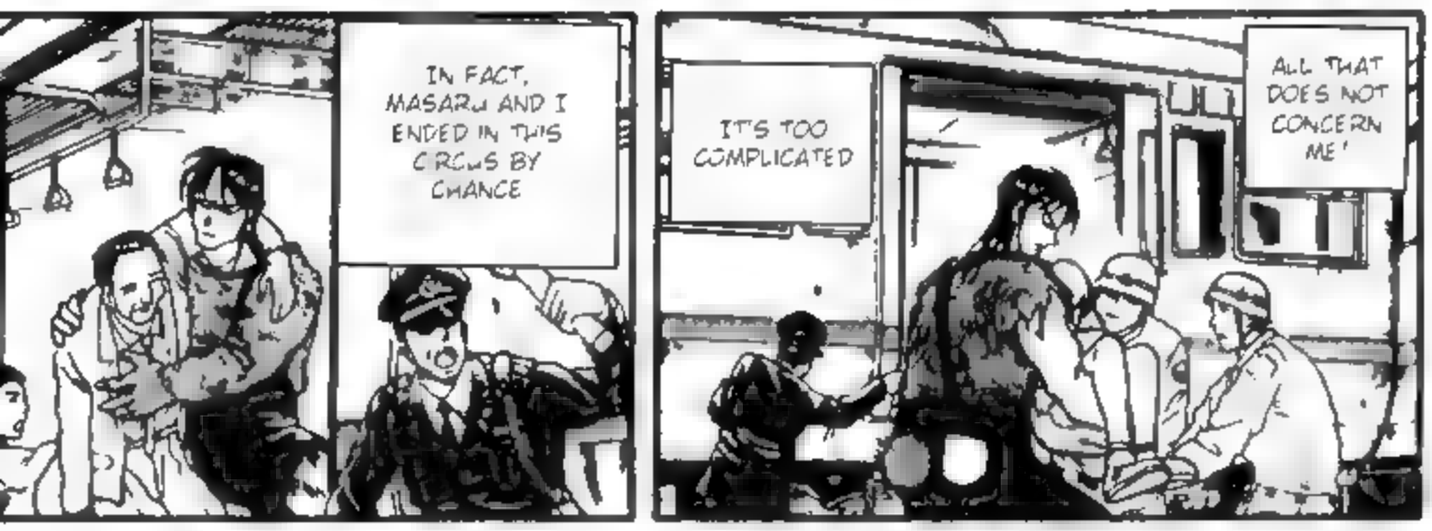
OKAY ..
I'M GOING TO BRING MASARU TO A DOCTOR, IN A CALM PLACE
SHOULD I GO WITH YOU?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO ?

NO ...
ALL OF THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS FROM NOW ON ..


YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR NORMAL LIFE
I'LL TAKE CARE OF MASARU

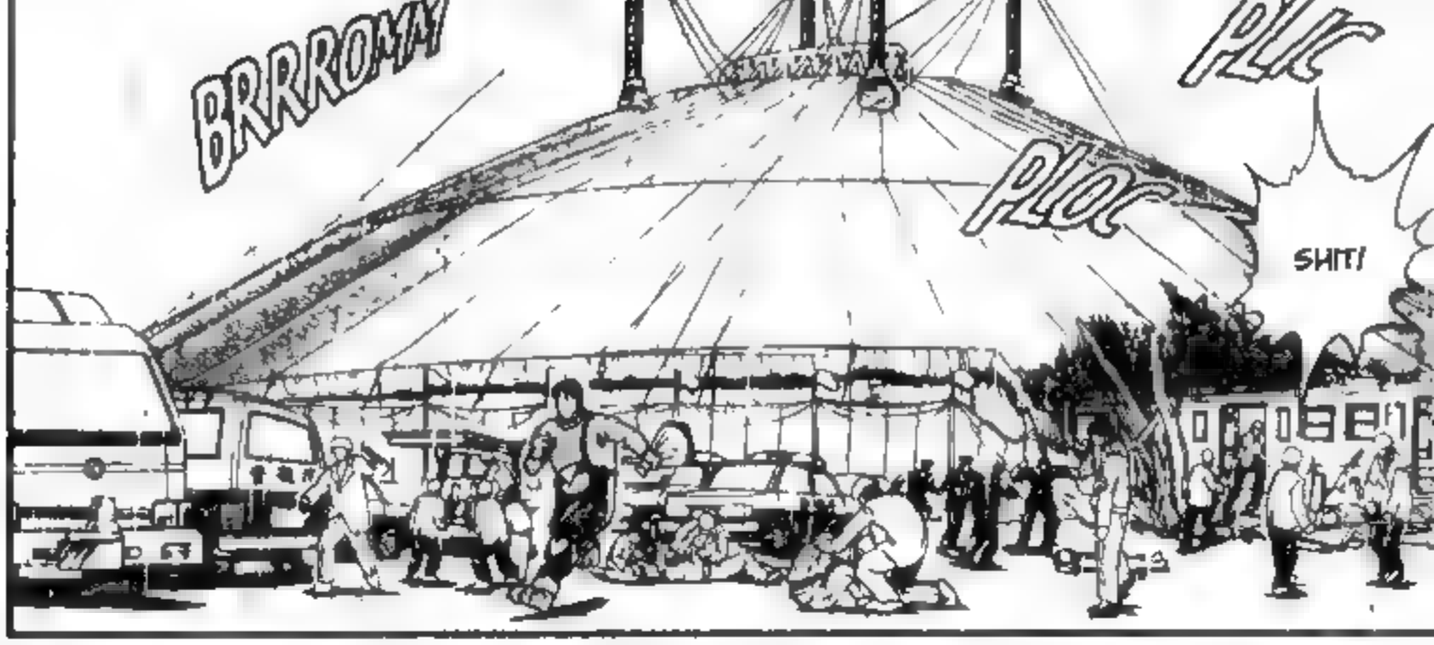

... OKAY!
HM!


IN FACT, MASARU AND I ENDED IN THIS CIRCUS BY CHANCE
IT'S TOO COMPLICATED
ALL THAT DOES NOT CONCERN ME!

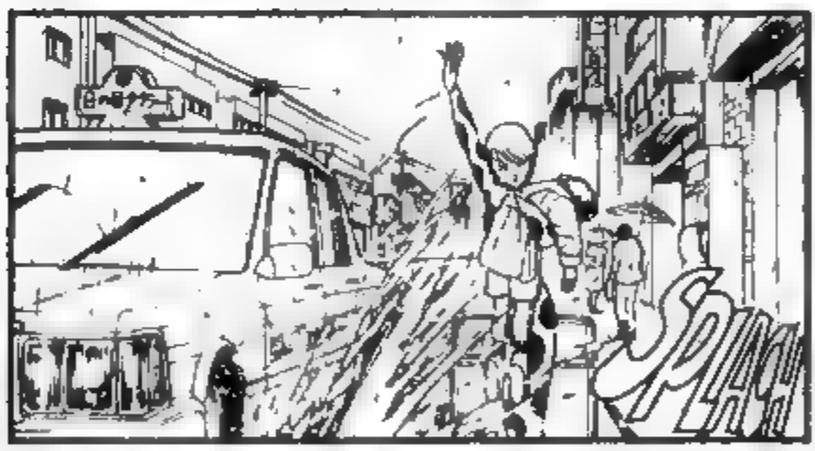
SO, MY "NORMAL LIFE" ... HOW FUNNY !!
ANYWAY I'M GOING TO DIE IF I DON'T MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH

OUAAAHHH
FÉLÉBÉLÉ
LOOK AT THIS GRIMACE !
BRING HER TO THE HOSPITAL !
I THINK HER LEFT LEG IS BROKEN ..
. .AND PROVOKE DISASTERS
THEY DARE TO GET INNOCENT CHILDREN INVOLVED .
IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE READY TO DO ANYTHING TO KILL MASARU .
AND ME
NOW THAT I KNOW T
GAH

I MUST
...
...MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH ?!
GRH
BUT
THE WORST
OUAAAHHH
IS THAT IF IT CONTINUES
...
...THIS YOUNG GIRL AND A LOT OF OTHER CHILDREN WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO LAUGH AGAIN
...


BRRROMM
PLIC
PLOC
SHIT!

CHHH


SPLASH

Whaaat
?!

YOU'RE RIGHT ..
BUT A PROBLEM OCCURRED .
It shouldn't be so hard to kidnap a eleven year old kid!
You failed even with three "guys" ?!
ON THE OTHER HAND ... THERE WAS A GIRL WHO, LIKE US ...
MAN PULATES PUPPETS
YES.. A GUY, WHO WAS THERE BY CHANCE ... BUT HE'S NOT THE REAL PROBLEM ..
a problem ?
DON'T WORRY ...
I'LL HONOR MY CONTRACT
impossible !!

.. I ASK YOU FOR THE PERMISSION TO USE "POLICHINELLE"
THAT'S WHY ..
Clic
Clic
Clic
CHHH
CHHH
CH
CHHH

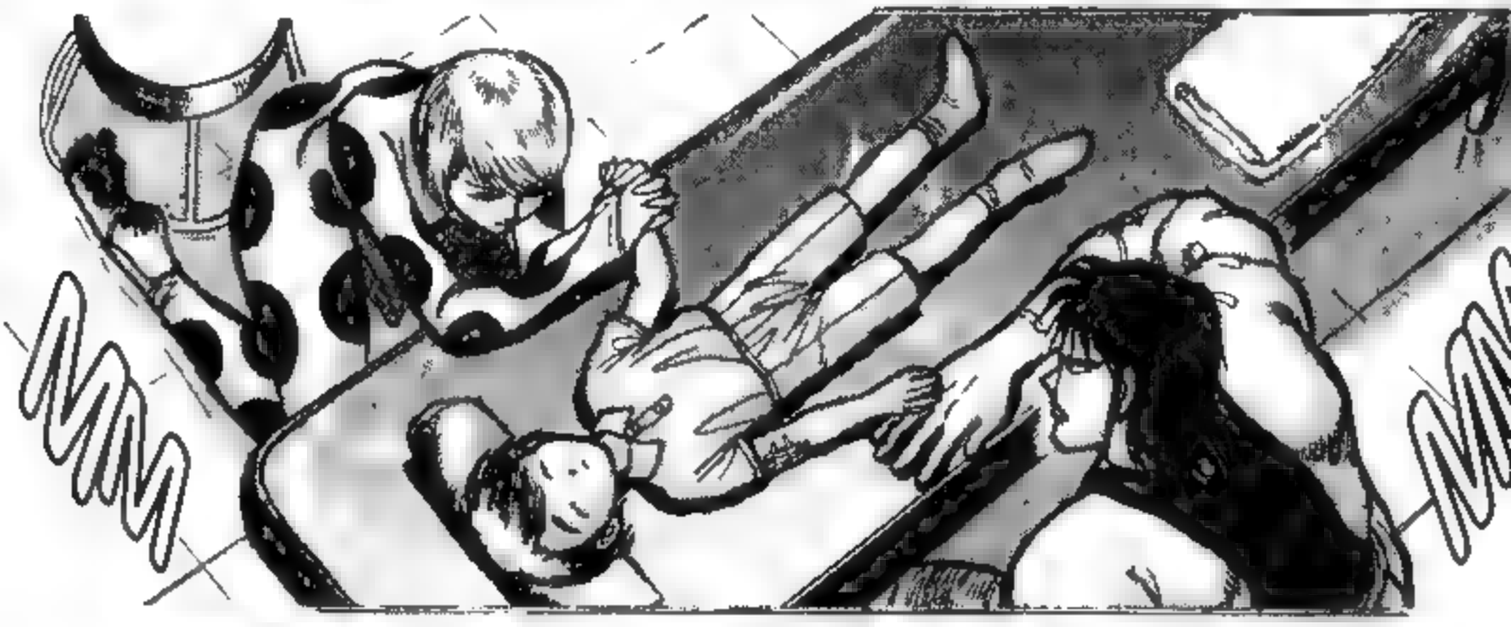
I WAS SURE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH A WOUNDED KID?!
I WANTED TO BRING HIM TO THE EMERGENCY WARD, BUT ...
ALL THE HOSPITALS ARE CLOSED ...
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU EVERY-WHERE!
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT A STRANGER CAN DO BETTER THAN A GUY FROM HERE ?!
IT WAS FORESEEABLE! TODAY IS SUNDAY!

WE'RE GOING TO BRING MASARU THERE
I LIVE AROUND HERE. I KNOW A DOCTOR WHO HAS HIS OWN PRACTICE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
COME
IF HE'S HURT, IT'S BECAUSE OF BOTH OF US!
THINK OF HIM FOR ONCE!
...
...
STRANGE
THAT EXPRESSION ON HER FACE! SHE LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE
I ...
I ..
VRROM
HURRY UP!

HO HO! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BREAK MY DOOR!
Sugano nursing home
CHHHH
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN A JAM !
SORRY, DOCTOR ...
EVERY TIME YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN, WHICH IS RARELY .
NARUMI !
IT'S ALMOST WAR BETWEEN US .
I THINK YOUR GRANDFATHER WOULD'VE LIKED TO SEE YOU TOGETHER!
HEY... THIS GIRL IS QUITE CUTE, NARUMI!
THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
... ON HIS ARM
HIS BRUISES ARE MINOR ... BUT ...
I HAD TO MAKE FIVE STITCHES
... THANK YOU SO MUCH !!
THANK YOU ...
REALLY ..

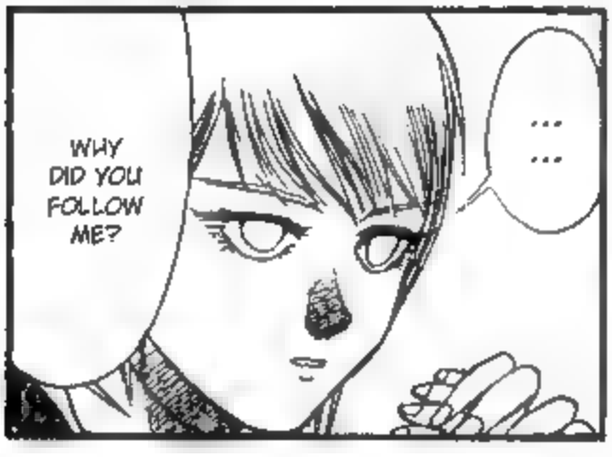
!

NN
..



YES!
I'M GOING UPSTAIRS ... BEFORE HE CAN LEAVE, HE HAS TO REST A LITTLE
AND DON'T FORGET HIS MEDICINES!

HA! HA! HA! ...
IT SEEMS THAT TH S KID DOES NOT AGREE WITH YOU ...


WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
... ...

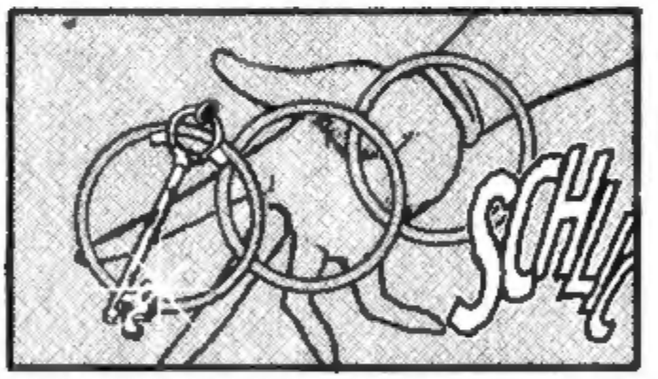
CLAC

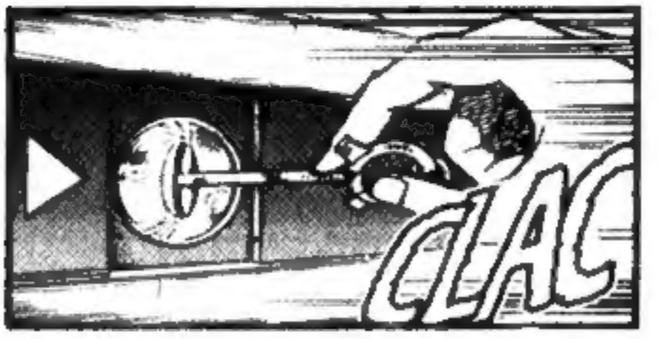
DON'T WORRY
WHAT I DO IS NEITHER FOR YOU NOR FOR HIM ...
EH ...
YOU STILL DON'T TRUST ME
.. IT WAS FOR ME
.. I USUALLY DON'T THINK ABOUT OTHERS PEOPLE ..
I DON'T HAVE A "NORMAL LIFE" !!
BESIDES, I DIDN'T LIKE WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU LEFT!

YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE MASARU UP!
I'M REALLY ANGRY! ...
AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT!
I'VE A BAD ILLNESS, AND ...

BRAHH

WHH


SCHL


CLAC

VLOM

SAH
SAH
SCHLAC
CLAC
ZOOM
ARLEQUIN!
...BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR MOTIVATIONS
AH?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR ILLNESS ...

YOU DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ... WITHOUT OWING ANYTHING TO ANYONE
... EXACTLY !
AND I DON'T DO ANYTHING USELESS!

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